

Editorial

Impeach Peter Berke

Recent actions on the part of Undergraduate Association President Peter Berke have led us to the conclusion that he has not accepted the responsibilities of his office and should therefore be impeached and removed from office by the undergraduate student body.

The latest of Berke's long string of un-presidential initiatives consisted of his sending a letter to several members of the Board of Directors of *The Tech* appointing them to the hitherto nonexistent "General Assembly executive committee" in what was clearly a facetious response to a serious editorial in last Tuesday's issue.

By refusing to call the General Assembly together, Berke has revealed his disdain for student government and for the responsible participation of representatives of the student body in the decision-making process on campus. His letter to *The Tech*, which purports to place the responsibility of convening the GA on certain members of the newspaper, is evidence of the cavalier attitude which has pervaded Berke's administration since his election in April.

Berke is in our opinion guilty of the following actions and inactions which taken together constitute a strong case for his impeachment:

- He has refused to convene the General Assembly.

- He has consistently refused to accept his role as spokesman for the undergraduate students. Berke was not in attendance at the last faculty meeting, at which the controversial drop date proposal was discussed, even though the Undergraduate Association President is the only undergraduate automatically allowed to speak at faculty meetings. In addition, Berke made only weak and undefinitive statements during last May's Writing Program debate.

- He has displayed a condescending and unresponsive attitude towards the members of the student body, going so far as to state publicly in *thursday* that students are no longer welcome to make comments to him concerning the Dean's Office and the state of art at MIT.

Under the procedures outlined in Article V, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the Executive Committee of the UA, the president can be removed by a two-thirds vote in favor of impeachment, in a referendum held upon petition of 20 percent of the undergraduates.

We believe that those who value effective student government at MIT should begin this process immediately.

Peter Berke's letter to members of *The Tech* Board



UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
TELEPHONE: 495-4001 FAX: 495-4002

November 29, 1977

Dear Mark Munkacsy
William Lasser
Rebecca L. Waring
William Harper
David Koretz

I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the General Assembly executive committee. This committee will be responsible for the planning and successful execution of a General Assembly. This includes scheduling, agenda and selection of representatives for the assembly.

You have expressed a very strong interest for the convening of this assembly, so I am sure you will find time in your busy schedules to act on your real concern. I will provide you with the assembly, as one part of my job as student body president and am otherwise available to help you in your work.

Thank you for your interest and efforts. You have my support and the good will of the student body. I hope you will be a productive IAP and can arrange a General Assembly agenda to suit all of your concerns.

Good Luck

Yours truly,

Peter Berke, President
Undergraduate Association

Continuous
News Service
Since 1881

Volume 97, Number 56

The Tech

MIT
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Tuesday, November 29, 1977

in
the
news

INSIDE

Famous hacks at MIT include the annual Freshman Shower Night and the Green Building Pumpkin Drop, but these pale in comparison with some of the mischief perpetrated on the Caltech campus, including the incredible Senior Ditch Day.

p3

The women's volleyball team ended its season with a fifth-place finish in the Eastern championships on Nov. 18, and 19. MIT was the only team in the tournament to defeat eventual champion East Stroudsburg State College.

p8

EXCERPTS

Jerusalem, Nov. 19 — An American reporter tried to telephone Cairo from the press center here today. The agitated telephone operator, placing the first call to Cairo in her life, managed to route it through Tel Aviv and Madrid . . .

"Cairo, this is Tel Aviv calling. I'm so excited," the Israeli operator said.

"Me, too my dear," came the response.

"And I'm so glad to speak to you on the line because it is the happiest day in my life," the Israeli operator continued. "How's the weather there?"

— *The New York Times*

Final report on grading due Dec. 21

By Jordana Hollander

The report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Grading, due to be presented at the Dec. 21 faculty meeting, will be finished and released in its final form some time during the next few weeks, according to its chairman, Professor of Management Zenon Zanetos.

The purpose of the committee
Institute Observer

is to improve and clarify the present grading system. Professor of Electrical Engineering Thomas Greytak '62, a member of the committee, indicated that there would be three main points covered in the final report.

One of the committee's proposals is to indicate the percentage of students in a course that received each grade. This in-

formation would be added to the student's grade on his transcript for each course he takes.

The recent Student Committee on Educational Policy poll asked student opinion of the addition of this type of information to their records. Over two thirds of those students answering the survey stated that they were not in favor of such a change.

The second of the proposals would attempt to further clarify the meaning of each of the letter grades by expanding their present explanations. These changed descriptions would then be distributed to faculty as an aid to their grading and may be printed on the student transcripts.

The third proposal would allow professors to add to the letter grade of part of the class by providing for letters of commendation to be attached to their transcripts. These letters would give extra recognition to outstanding work or would explain special circumstances.

According to Greytak's statements at the last faculty meeting the grading committee's final report will be considered at the faculty meeting next month. The drop date proposal will also be voted upon at that meeting, making action on the report highly unlikely. Greytak indicated that discussion on the proposed changes to the grading system would continue into the February faculty meeting.

Green Bldg. roof: attainable?

By Michael Heaney

The top of the Green Building has been a source of fascination to many MIT students for years: attempts to gain entrance to the roof are made almost every night.

It was one night last week that this reporter was taken on a tour of the roof by a Campus Patrol sergeant from the night shift. We proceeded through the tunnel from Building 56 (the Green Building's lock cylinders had broken-off master keys in them), via the elevator to the 18th floor, and then took the stairs to the 20th.

The cylinder in the door had been recently pried out with a crowbar, leaving no locks; the sergeant opened it with his finger. The second door was not locked, and after a flight of stairs we were on the roof 30 seconds after the first door's alarm would have been heard at Campus Patrol headquarters. Would the Patrol be able to reach the roof in time, if an emergency did occur?

It is supposedly the challenge of getting to the roof that attracts so many students. The route through the tunnels, elevators and stairwells is not known to everyone. The door at the 20th floor is usually locked, with a warning against entrance by unauthorized persons printed on the door. Several yards beyond this

door is a similar door that is not locked.

Both doors are protected by an electric breaker alarm which triggers a warning at the Campus Patrol headquarters on the second floor of the duPont Gymnasium building. It is possible to get to the roof from the 19th floor, which contains Physical Plant equipment, but this door is locked and equipped with an alarm.

An elevator runs from the 18th floor to the roof, operated by keys and alarmed much like the doors. A notice on the wall notes: "This elevator is controlled by a timer and operates only on weekdays. After 5pm and on weekends it is inoperable by any means." The door at the top of the other stairwell is sealed shut from the outside, with no keyholes or doorknobs on the inside.

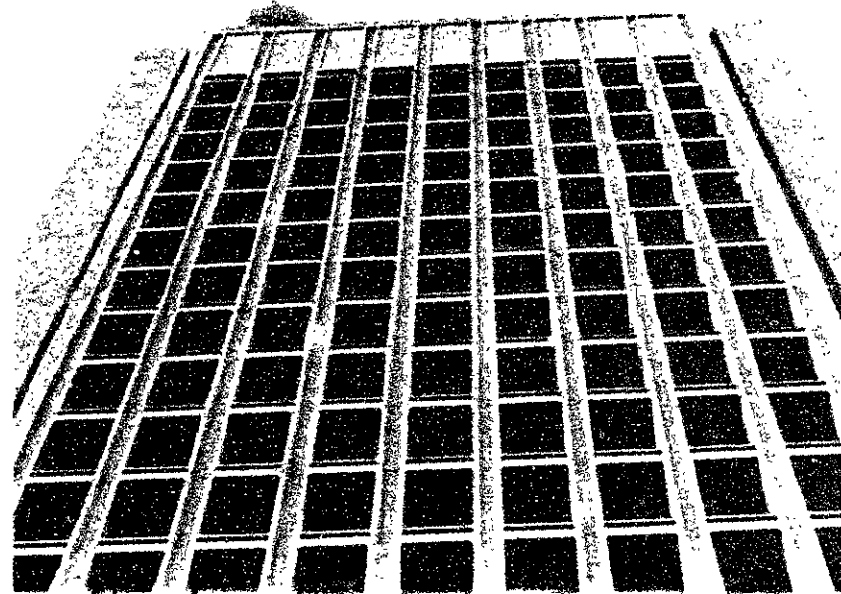
According to Sergeant Molineaux of the Campus Patrol, there have been no major security problems with the alarm system. Within 30 seconds to two minutes, of an alarm sounding, contended the sergeant, the CP would be right there.

Most of the students caught on the roof claim that the door was left open. In the past students have picked the locks, pried out the cylinders, or used duplicate

keys to get to the roof.

On the roof are meteorological equipment, a radar dome, radio equipment, a crow's nest, a few offices, and air conditioning equipment. Students aren't allowed on the roof for several reasons. Some of the equipment on the roof is expensive, and vandalism is feared. The roof is considered to be unsafe, and a strong wind could knock someone off balance, especially if they were

(Please turn to page 2)



(Photo by Steven Solnick)

Hacks flourish at Caltech

By Kenneth Hamilton

How do our counterparts at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) manage to retain a semblance of sanity? One release from the pressure of academics is Senior Ditch Day.

This annual event on the Pasadena campus finds un-

dergraduates breaking into seniors' rooms, creatively devastating the interiors, and tying one or two of the seniors remaining on campus to trees with rope, garden hose, or a length of chain.

Senior Ditch Day occurs sometime in the third quarter.



Students prepare to "restack" a senior's room during Senior Ditch Day at Caltech. The entrance is being sealed with blocks of ice and the gaps are filled with water (the resident was a deep-sea diver). (Photo from the 1973 Big T. yearbook of Caltech)

notes

* PARKS, PIPES, AND PEOPLE will be the topic at a free symposium on Alaska with films, panels, and workshops on Sat., Dec. 3, from 9:30am to 5pm at Paine Hall, Harvard (next to the Science Center). For further information, call Marsha Rockefeller at 227-5339, MIT Ecology Action at x3-7922, or Bob Chen at 628-4319.

* The science writing class (21.73) will feature Robert C. Cowen, Science Editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*, in a discussion from 3 to 4:30pm in Rm. 4-156. Cowen will describe his role at the Monitor, particularly the preparation of in-depth feature stories.

* Tomorrow night at 7:00 there will be a Volunteer Open House for skiers interested in instructing city kids in the skills of skiing and mountaineering. The meeting will be at the Ski Shop/Offices at 180 Mass. Ave., Boston; refreshments will be served.

* The MIT Astronomy Society will sponsor a talk tonight entitled "A Science-Adventure Journey to the Great Manicougan Meteorite Crater in Quebec" by Professor William H. Pinson. It will take place in Rm. 4-321 at 8:00pm and will be preceded by a short MITAS business session.

* All remaining back issues of *Tech Engineering News* will be distributed tomorrow at noon in Lobby 10. Arrive promptly for the best selection. Over 2,500 TEN's were picked up in slightly over an hour when they were distributed last week in Lobby 7.

* The MIT Corporation is looking for nominees to the Corporation to fill those slots allocated to members of recent classes — this year from the classes of '76, '77, '78. For more information contact Laurence Storch, Alumni Association, the MIT Alumni Center.

* Gerald Lesser, director of Harvard's Center for Research in Children's Television will be the featured speaker at the fall meeting of MATE (Mass. Assoc. for Television in Education) to be held at the Trim Inn at Babson College, Wellesley, rooms 201-205 on Sat., Dec. 10, 1977. Registration and coffee from 9:00-10:00am.

* Charles F. Adams, a director of the Raytheon Company and chairman of its finance committee, will speak at Cambridge on "The Executive," on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 8pm at the First Parish in Cambridge, 3 Church Street, Harvard Square. Free and open to the public, the forum is part of the tenth anniversary series on "Great Vocations: Issues in the Professions."

None of the undergrads know exactly when the seniors will bolt the campus, although the day has been secretly set by the senior class for months.

The seniors go to great lengths to protect their rooms: they install what are known as "stacks." If an undergraduate makes his way into a senior's room, he may do anything creative to the room, although the senior may beguile him by leaving a suitable bribe.

The stacks vary from "brute-force" to "finesse" stacks. Every year seniors in Page House, one of the seven undergraduate houses, come up with a brute-force stack that is, according to Mike Coln, a former Caltech undergraduate "a feat of structural engineering." The Page House stack generally uses successive layers of reinforced concrete, wood blocks, steel plating, fiberglass, and railroad ties to guard against entry by "anything short of a bomb." To gain access to the vault undergrads use scaffolding, to attack the second story windows, diamond drills, and carbide circular saws. Yet, Coln commented that the brute-force stacks are almost always broken into early in the day.

Jon Teich, a grad student in Electrical Engineering at MIT, related that "every year after Ditch Day, the Master of Housing and the Director of the Housing Office sort of stroll past the houses and shake their heads a couple of times — and then they draw up the house bills." The bills for the damage that is inflicted on the seniors' rooms on Ditch Day are passed on to each House as a whole.

At the other extreme, is the "finesse" stack which requires some thought and craft to gain access to the room. Teich recounted that the most "non-force" stack he had ever heard of simply required the collaboration

(Please turn to page 5)

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The Tech Classified Ads Work!
\$3.00 per 35 words (or fraction) per day. Just send your ad with payment to The Tech, W20-483, or PO Box 29 — MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139 by US Mail.

Lost: Swiss Army pocket knife, at M.I.T. Probably Kresge area or Lobby 7. Friday, Nov. 18. Please contact Ingrid, x3-7648, leave message. Reward.

Soy un estudiante Americano en MIT que busca un hispano hablante con quien pueda practicar el español. Quiero charlar una hora por semana. Tal vez pueda enseñarle a usted, durante la hora (en español), la fotografía o la reparación de bicicletas. Llámeme a dormline 5-6535 en la noche entre seis y doce. Me llamo Daniel

Bernard Malamud
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Tuesday, Nov. 29
7:30pm, 54-100
free — all invited
Writing Program

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news roundup

WORLD

Meeting called in Cairo — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has invited Israel, the United States, the Soviet Union, and various Arab nations to a meeting in Cairo as preliminary to the Geneva peace talks. Israel has formally accepted the invitation and the United States has indicated that it will attend. Jordan, however, has refused the invitation while the other nations involved have not yet responded. Anti-Sadat meetings have been announced by Syria and Iraq, and will be held in Tripoli and possibly in Baghdad.

NATION

Maryland appeals tuition ruling — After a lower court ruled that publicly supported state colleges and universities must charge foreign students whose parents work for international agencies the same tuition as in-state students, the state of Maryland has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court. Twenty-eight other states, including Massachusetts, have filed friend of the court briefs in support of the Maryland brief.

Huge trade deficit announced — The US Commerce Department reported that the foreign trade deficit reached \$3.1 billion in October, making it the single worst month ever in US history. One of the reasons given for such a large deficit is the dock strike, which has hurt US exports.

Carter trip rescheduled — President Carter has changed the itinerary of his planned overseas trip. He will leave Dec. 29, visit Iran, India, Saudi Arabia, France, and Belgium and return on Jan. 6. Proposed stops in various African and Asian nations have been dropped, but these countries may be visited by the president next spring. This trip was postponed from last week due to the delay of the president's energy proposal in Congress.

LOCAL

Judge delays school plan — The filing of the unified facilities plan proposed by the Boston School Department, the State Board of Education, and the Boston Public Facilities Department was delayed by Federal District Judge W. Arthur Garrity until a hearing on Dec. 12. The plan would result in the closing of seven Boston schools this year, six in 1979 and thirty-six others in the following years. Garrity stated that he would not hand down a final ruling until the mayor's office had held public hearings where the communities and parents involved could give their views on the plan.

Health
You are invited to hear a free lecture
on Christian Science entitled,

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By Rose M. Hemmiker-Heaton, C.S.
of The Christian Science Board of Lectureship

Abundance
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will be available

opinion

feedback

Drop date: a human view

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my concern over the latest faculty proposal to place further limitations on the ability of students to drop classes at a later date. It is my feeling that the parties proposing the earlier drop date are placing too much emphasis on efficiency and costs, rather than on what is best for the students, and, through them, society as well. I believe, in other words, that the human perspective in this issue has been subjugated to more traditional engineering concerns.

I hope the following points will help illustrate this fact.

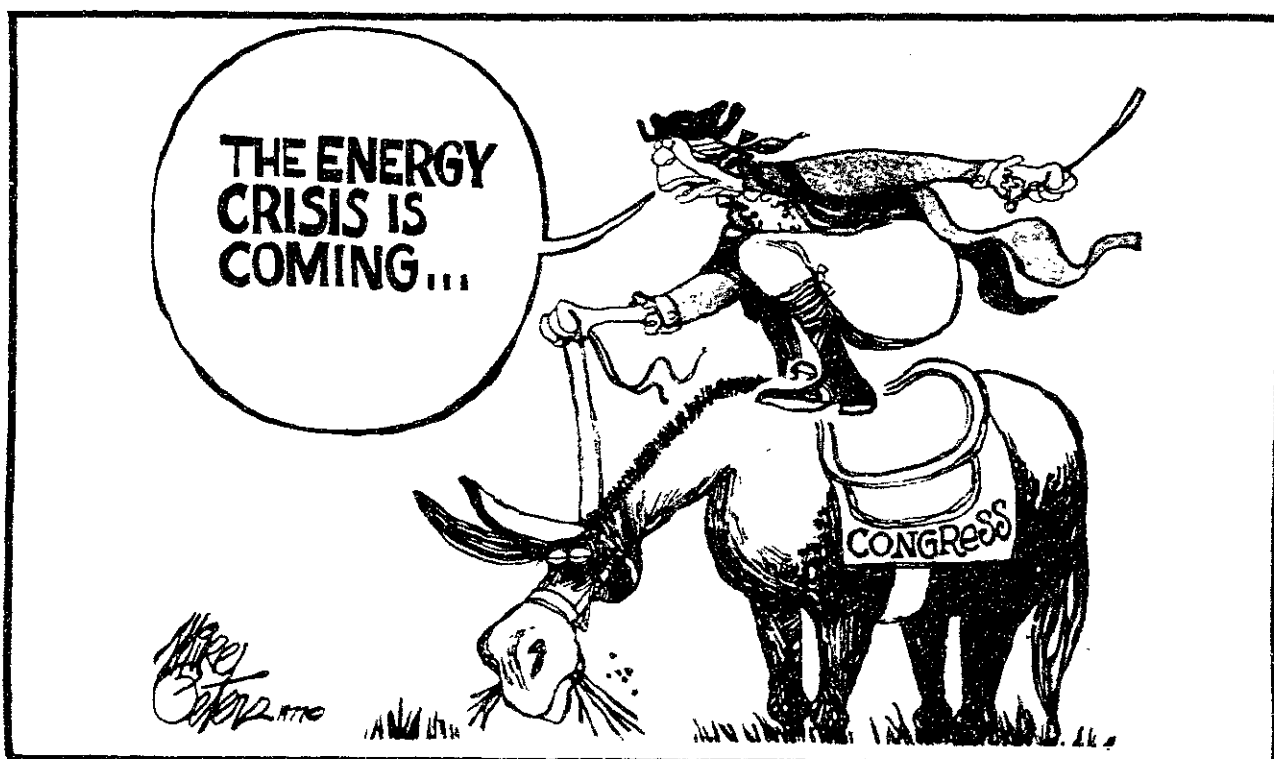
First, the proposal was initiated by an engineering department. As engineers, we are trained to worry about efficiency and the cutting of costs. For an engineering project, like a solar collector, this is all well and good. The principles of engineering, of cost benefit analysis, are limited, however, and if carried too far, we lose sight of more fundamental questions. People, for instance, are not machines; we need flexibility. We have not come to MIT knowing exactly what we want to do; we tend to make mistakes, especially in a high pressure situation. From a human, from a people standpoint, we need flexibility.

Second, almost 90 percent of the students are in favor of keeping the drop date as it is. This point should be strong enough to stand by itself.

Third, many of my friends, friends who I feel are most human, who are most apt to go out and help the world, are seriously considering leaving MIT. Why are they doing this? Primarily because they feel there are too many constraints on them, constraints to take away their soul, their goal to help humanity. This is one of the "social costs" of the new proposal. Do these people have to leave MIT, or is there some way that they, too, can fit into the educational framework of MIT, which supposedly has the same goals as them.

I would urge the faculty to weigh the above factors carefully in making a decision on the drop date question. I would also urge the faculty to reconsider the whole educational system we have here, to see if it, too, is best set up to solve the problems of the world from a human as well as an engineering perspective, instead of being geared to produce "engineers" for whatever value their work has. I personally do not believe that the above two goals coincide, as many of the faculty may have been misled to believe; I hope that a way to accommodate my friends, who are interested in helping people, and the world, can be found. Thank you very much.

Thomas A. Davidson G
Nov. 21, 1977



In memoriam: Tech Eng. News

By Steve Kirsch

Why, after almost 60 years, did the staff of *Tech Engineering News* (TEN) dissolve? Because nobody, including themselves, cared about their magazine? It sure seems that way.

Why didn't people care about a magazine that should have the same popular appeal that *Scientific American* does today? One reason is that many people never heard of TEN.

One professor who has been here 13 years said, "I don't remember TEN. *Voodoo* was infinitely more well known." Another professor who came here as an undergraduate in 1956 said, "I know the name. . . I'm sure I've read copies that appeared on my desk. . . I don't remember paying for any student publications other than *Voodoo* and *The Tech*." One grad student who has been here seven years said he never heard of TEN.

That many people never heard of TEN is not surprising — even during TEN's prosperous years in the 50's and 60's only about 1,200 copies of each issue were printed. And of that 1,200, only about 500 were sold for a quarter in Lobby 10, and only 200 went to regular subscribers (mostly libraries).

The situation worsened during the recession in '69 and '70 as TEN lost much of its advertising base and was forced to raise its price to 75c. Although issue quality and staff interest remained high (full color front covers, 60 pages per issue, 50 staff members), the dynamism could not be sustained. Of the 1,000 copies printed of the 30 page November 1970 issue, only 45 were sold to other than the 200 subscribers.

Forrest N. Krutter '75, Editor-in-Chief of TEN during 1974, attributed the meager over-the-counter sales to "personnel problems," explaining that they could only manage to staff a booth in Lobby 10 for one week each issue.

Things had been bad for TEN since 1972 when, because of the lack of advertising, the issue size had fallen to 16 pages. "We had more articles that we could afford to print," Krutter said.

In the January 1975 issue of TEN, Krutter wrote what was to be the last "From the Editor's Desk," though he didn't know it then:

"This issue brings to a close the fifty-sixth volume of *Tech Engineering News* and my term as Editor-in-Chief. I approach the end of my tenure in this position with very mixed feelings. *Tech Engineering News* has gone

through three very shaky years. At times I have felt that the magazine had little or no future. You might say that the Board of Directors were given a great challenge. From a purely biased point of view I would say that we managed to stay afloat, though, at times, not far above the waves. The gauntlet is about to be passed on to a new Board of Directors with a new set of initials gracing the bottom of 'From the Editor's Desk.' I think that the new Board of Directors is fully qualified to

TEN, that he was doing it "just for pre-med." In previous years, about half the articles in TEN from undergraduates were unsolicited and the other half came from UROP students contacted by the TEN staff. This changed when Lach took over.

"Nobody submitted any articles to TEN," recalls Gomez. He added that since Lach, a biology major, was in charge of getting articles, TEN became biology oriented. "He published a lot of his own articles (papers he had written for classes) and published stuff in research papers he found."

"It was just him. Others never really took part in the magazine," Gomez said. He mentioned that to his knowledge no copies were ever sold in Lobby 10 and that there were "quite a few left over" from the typical press runs of 500.

take over the leadership of *Tech Engineering News*.

"With that said, I would like to thank the staff of *Tech Engineering News* for all the time they donated to the magazine. A magazine does not come out through the work of the editor-in-chief or even the Board of Directors in concert with the staff and staff candidates. The seventies have been a time of great trouble for college engineering journals. All I can say is I hope our choices (sic) for next year's Board was a wise one."

Krutter was wrong. Elliot Lach '77 was not a wise choice for editor-in-chief.

According to Nanelle Scott '78, the last general manager of TEN, Lach was responsible for getting articles for the magazine. Scott said that issues were late because Lach failed to get articles in on time. "Elliot said it was difficult to get articles from undergraduates." Could it have been that difficult to find the two articles needed to fill a 16 page issue, especially when the year before they had more articles than they could print? Why didn't Lach seek articles from professors or reprint relevant articles from another journal so that issues didn't come out late? Late issues led to unhappy advertisers and unhappy advertisers meant fewer ads and fewer pages.

When the ASA Execcomm tried to contact TEN a few weeks ago to find out why TEN hadn't published anything for the last year and a half, the only person listed on the last staff roster they could reach was Camilo Gomez '80.

Gomez said he didn't know he had been elected editor-in-chief until he returned to MIT this fall. He said he had never been on the staff officially but had just been "helping out." He said he had apparently been put up for the position over the summer by Lach, now a medical student at Yale.

Gomez said that Lach "wasn't that interested" in putting out

perspectives

Eisenberg troubled by The Tech article

To the Editor:

I read *The Tech* regularly and I pay attention to its point of view. When Bob Wasserman complains that student participation in the meeting of the Dean for Student Affairs Visiting Committee was unsatisfactory, I'm troubled and want to know what I can do to make the exchange more profitable.

We did advertise the meeting widely on campus. If the students who attended were "intimidated" by the size of the Visiting Committee, the only answer is to get more students out for the meeting. We tried. What we did wasn't enough. What more can we do to get a larger turn out than we did?

But Bob is wrong when he implies that the students who were with smaller groups of the Visiting Committee members were "handpicked." We set up dinner meetings at separate locations: Ashdown, Baker, Senior House, Sigma Chi, and WILG, precisely to encourage informal interchange at a more personal level. The dinner I attended at Sigma Chi was in the dining room with all free to participate, and a fair number of students did. My colleagues at the other houses had similar experiences. No one was "picked" except insofar as they held offices in the various houses — offices to which they are

elected by students, not by the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs.

But, all that aside, we agree that "a larger and more diverse student representation would have been better for both groups." We invite the staff of *The Tech* and its readers to drop by the Office or write us with ways of attaining that goal.

Carola Eisenberg
Dean for Student Affairs
Nov. 25, 1977

The Tech

Mark J. Munkacsy '78 — Chairman
William Lasser '78 — Editor-in-Chief
Rebecca L. Waring '79 — Managing Editor
William H. Harper '79 — Business Manager

Volume 97, Number 56

Tuesday, November 29, 1977

NEWS DEPARTMENT

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The Tech welcomes Letters to the Editor, which should be typed and triple-spaced. Unsigned letters will not be published. An author's name will be withheld on request.

Those amazing Caltech hackers

(Continued from page 3)

of some trained fruit flies. The room was sealed up and a light emitting diode was placed in the middle of the room. The LED lit a photosensor which controlled a solenoid locking the door. After Ditch Day was over and the undergrads had failed to get into the room, a senior arrived to feed a troop of trained fruit flies through his keyhole. Eventually the fruit flies massed together atop the LED, thereby tripping the light beam, breaking the circuit, and opening his door.

Among the other more celebrated stacks include Paul Schluter's "finesse" stack. Paul is currently a graduate student in Course VI at MIT. His stack required the undergrads to whistle the first fifteen notes of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony within certain frequency and time tolerances. After they had desperately struggled in vain for three days, armed with everything from accordions to flutes, Paul sauntered into the house and whistled his way into his room within a few minutes.

A restack is mandated if the undergraduates succeed in breaking through a senior's stack. A restack is any creative mania inflicted upon a senior's room on Senior Ditch Day. Teich commented that his first experience at Caltech after he had arrived on campus was watching a winch lower a granite boulder from a room that had been restacked the year before.

The *California Tech*, Caltech's student newspaper, reported that last year's Ditch Day produced an indoor soccer field and a barn in two of the houses. Upon breaking into a senior's room in Fleming House, "all the furniture was removed and the floor was covered with sod. White lines were drawn on the sod (and) goals were put up at either end of his room." In Ruddock House, the restacked room came complete with hay, a live horse, and a cow. "His roommate, a sophomore, was heard to object somewhat to

the plan."

"Murphy's stack wasn't very impressive," Teich recalled, "but his claim to fame was that he was an incredible slob. His room was in complete chaos all year long. . . . Once a group broke through his stack, they spent about two hours cleaning up the place till it was spotless — I'm not sure if he

ever found anything again."

Of course if a group of undergraduates succeeds in breaking into a senior's room, they may be distracted by a bribe. A popular bribe that the seniors leave is beer or wine, in the hope that the intruders will be too far gone to restack the room properly if the bribe is accepted.



A Caltech underclassman prepares a surprise for an unfortunat senior. (Photo from *The Big T*, 1976)

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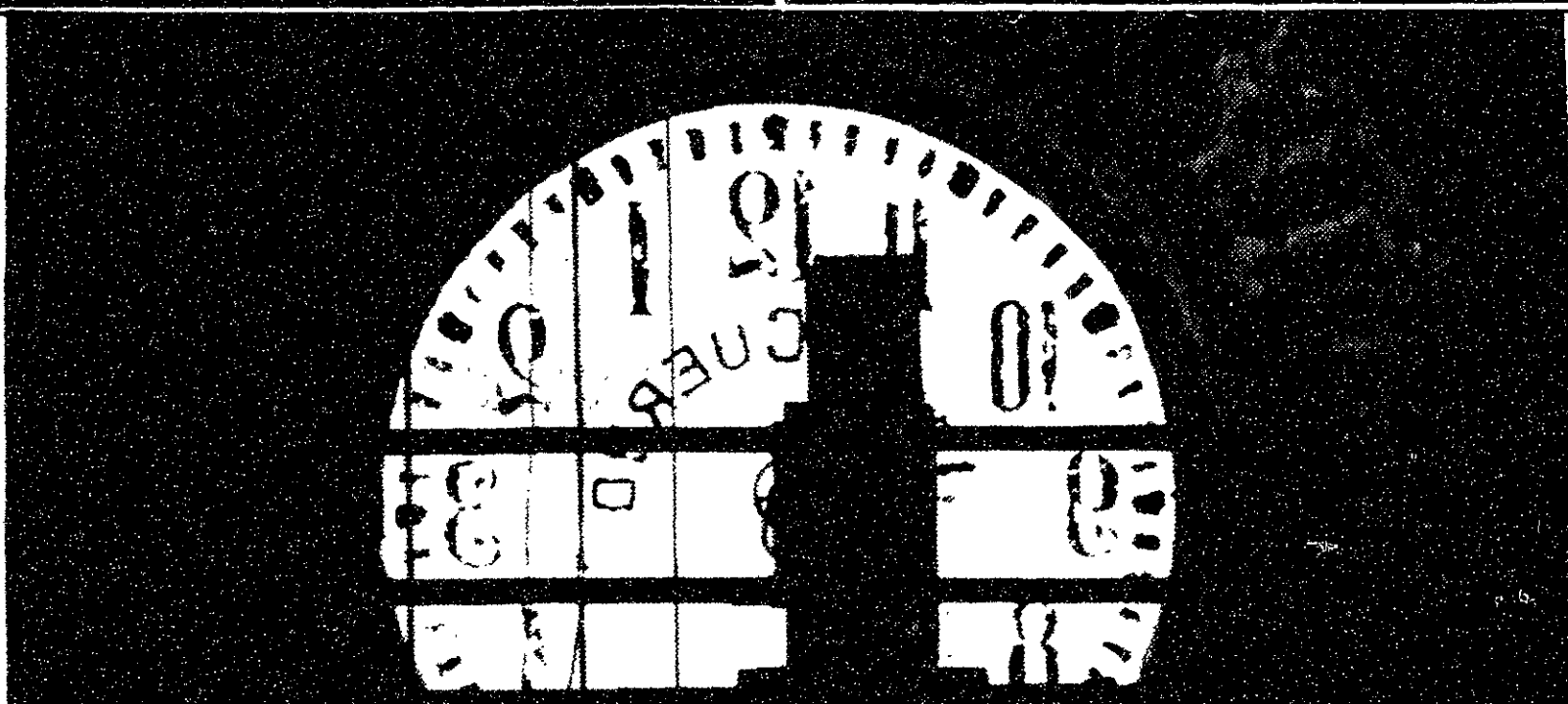
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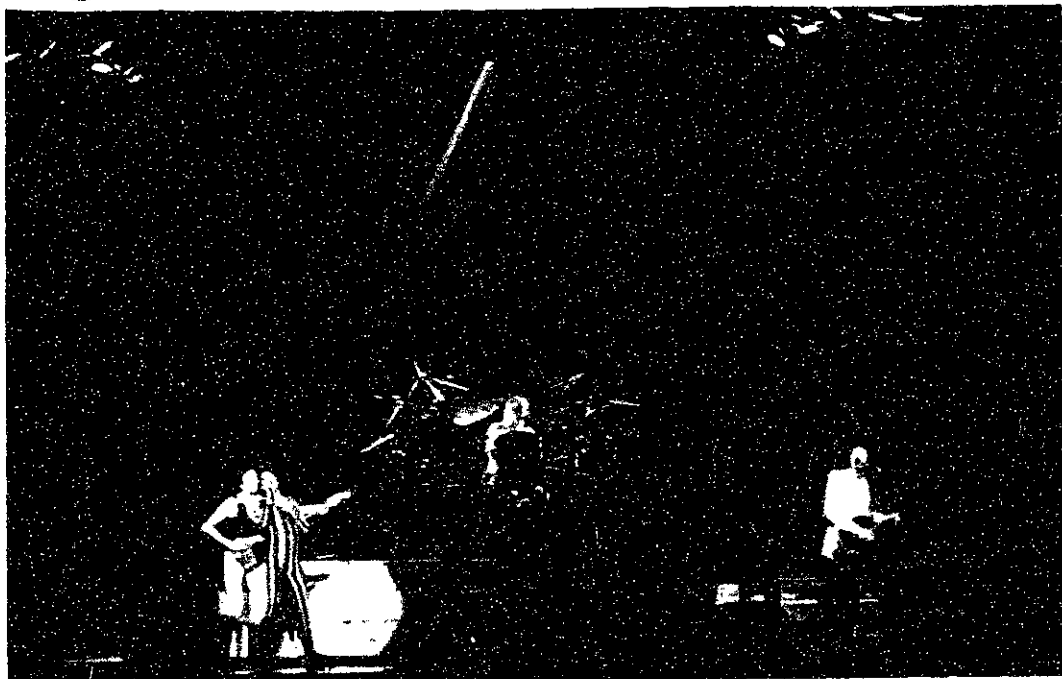
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Queen concert a mediocre effort at best



Queen's latest concert at the Boston Garden was not as good as it should have been (Photo by A. David Boccuti)

By David Shaw

On November 12, the rowdy audience in Boston Garden rocked to the sound of Queen in concert. It took very little to please the largely high-school-aged crowd, and Queen complied by putting out a mediocre effort.

The concert opened with a song from the new album, "We Will Rock You," which was followed by "Brighton Rock." These

their older tunes: "Death on Two Legs," "Killer Queen," and "Lover Boy." The last, "I'm In Love With My Car," which is usually sung by drummer Rodger Taylor, was not sung by any member of the band but instead vocals were provided by a pre-recorded tape. The tape was used again in the middle of "Bohemian Rhapsody," while the band left the stage.

Mercury announced that the group

"Technically, the concert was marred by poor sound quality. . . . The group's choice of songs was also poor . . ."

two songs had most people out of their seats; most of them would stay that way for the rest of the show. Lead vocalist Freddie Mercury told the audience to "keep up the good mood" and introduced the next group of songs as a "pastiche" of some of

would attempt some songs that they had never performed on stage before. He sang "Love of My Life" to the accompaniment of Brian May's solo acoustic guitar, then the whole group invited the house to sing along to an acoustic version of "'39." After hearing these numbers, one can easily conclude why they had never been performed live — they don't quite work. However, Queen's performance of their harder rock tunes was brilliant. The highlights of the evening were May's solos during "White Man" and "Get Down, Make Love." The renditions of "Liar," "Keep Yourself Alive," and "Tie Your Mother Down" were also flawless, as was a slightly shortened "You're My Best Friend."

The band returned to do a few encore numbers, including the schmaltzy "We Are the Champions" from the new album. As an extra "bonus," they did a tribute to Elvis Presley, leading the screaming crowd in a chorus of "Jailhouse Rock." Hopefully, this will not continue as a trend in concerts. As Mercury took his final bow, he announced: "It's been a pleasure doing business with you all."

And a poor business it was. Technically, the concert was marred by poor sound quality, and awful lighting work from the spotlight crew. The group's choice of songs was also poor, favoring the newer, campier Mercury-authored tunes instead of the tighter solid rockers. After the concert had ended, someone in the audience remarked: "Queen's hard rock days are gone."

One fact that should be taken into account is that Boston was only the second stop on Queen's U.S. tour, and they might have been testing new material on the always-receptive Boston audience. Hopefully Queen will tighten up their act and give other cities a show better reflecting their musical ability.

Semi-Tough is not about football

Semi-Tough, a United Artists release, starring Burt Reynolds, Kris Kristofferson, and Jill Clayburgh; produced by David Merrick, directed by Michael Ritchie; screenplay by Walter Bernstein; playing at Sack Cheri; rated R.

By Al Sanders

Don't let the ads fool you. *Semi-Tough* is not a comedy about football. Certainly the stars are football players and we do follow the Miami team to the Super Bowl. Nevertheless, unlike the story of Dan Jenkins' classic novel of the same title, these football sequences are secondary. Instead, the movie focuses its satiric edge on the relationship of the three principal characters and their involvement in the current consciousness movement.

Just as in the novel, star running back Billy Clyde Puckett (Burt Reynolds) and his pass-catching buddy Shake Tiller (Kris Kristofferson) live with and good-naturedly compete for the heart of Barbara Jane Bookman (Jill Clayburgh). Barbara Jane is one of the few "nines" in the history of the athlete's rather chauvinistic rating scale ("There ain't never been a ten"). All three are about as Texan as they come and it is a joy watching them languidly draw their way through life.

The film deviates from Jenkins' saga in that it concentrates on Tiller's having "found himself" through the movement called BEAT much like the current fad est. The receiver's sudden introspectiveness causes Barbara Jane to look at him with a new interest and before long the two are engaged, an arrangement that Billy Clyde finds most unsatisfying.

The highlight of the film is a weekend long seminar in which Barbara Jane tries to get "it," "it" referring to the new awareness supposedly found through BEAT. Bert Convy is wonderful as Friedrich Bismark, forceful leader of the BEAT movement. Barbara Jane never does get "it" to Tiller's dismay, but Billy Clyde

pretends to in an attempt to show her just how meaningless the entire thing is and thus win her back.

The major purpose of the film is to show the silliness of the mass attempt to find instant answers to life's problems. Everywhere the film turns, someone is shouting the praises of his "answer," be it pyramid power or "movagenics" which consists mainly of crawling around on one's hands and knees trying to find oneself. Big Ed Bookman (Robert Preston), Barbara Jane's father and stereotyped Texan owner of the team, has even gone so far as to install miniature doors in his office and cut the legs off of his desk to facilitate his practice of "movagenics." That Billy Clyde and Barbara Jane, the most down to earth characters of the film, find such gimmicks unnecessary, is a good indication of the opinion of Walter Bernstein's screenplay on the subject.

Reynolds, Clayburgh, and Kristofferson all fill their roles well with Clayburgh especially standing out. It is impossible not

to like the fun-loving trio. Sometimes Kristofferson's serenity is laid on a bit thick, but that is the script's fault, not his.

If *Semi-Tough* seems to have a lack of direction, it is due to the inclusion of the football sequences. It seems that the producers wanted to make a film about life in the late seventies, but were forced by the general framework of the novel to throw in a few gridiron scenes here and there. As a result these scenes are meaningless and they detract seriously from the flow of the film.

Director Michael Ritchie has followed the same formula that he introduced in his previous delights *Smile* and *The Bad News Bears*, namely an enjoyable comedy filled with vicious satire on the world of today. The movie may not live up to expectations because it lacks the pure down-home quality that made Jenkins' novel so enjoyable. Taken on its own, however, *Semi-Tough* is full of raunchy entertainment, providing us with a good chance to laugh at our times.



Three members of the Miami football team (left to right) are #74 Brian Dennehy, #22 Billy Clyde Puckett (Burt Reynolds) and #81 Shake Tiller (Kris Kristofferson), in *Semi-Tough*.

The Tech's movie rating scale:
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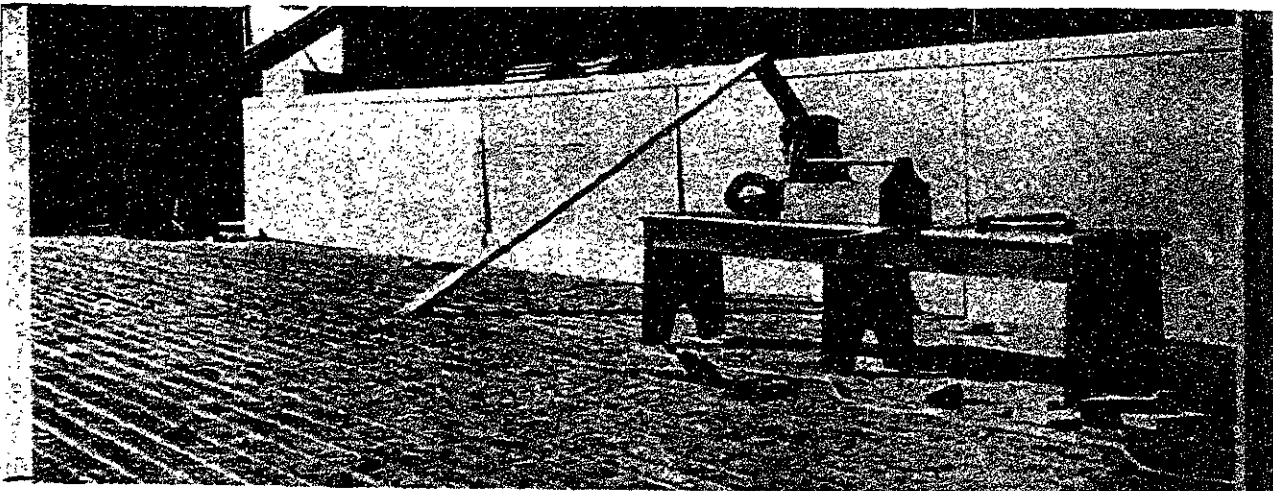


the first snowflake's touch turned fall into a warm memory

Photos by Gordon Haff



sports



Extensive renovations were necessary once again this year in order to open the MIT Ice Rink. (Photo by Chuck Irwin)

Rink opens after long delay

By Helen Miyasaki

One year ago, after extensive repairs on the refrigeration system, the MIT Ice Rink was frozen and ready to use on November 13. This year, however, the rink's opening has been delayed for over two weeks because of the unusually warm weather we have had recently.

The rink was originally built in 1955 as a temporary structure with an expected lifespan of approximately ten years. A new indoor ice rink is included in Phase I of the new athletic facility but construction on this structure cannot begin until enough money is contributed for the beginning of Phase I.

Each year the construction of a new rink is delayed. MIT spends more than \$10,000 in repairs for the old rink. The pipes that freeze the ice are connected to the heating system of Kresge Auditorium and have long been known to be inadequate for the amount of refrigeration required.

This year it seemed that the system could not take any more and, compounded by the warm weather, ice failed to appear until Sunday.

A target opening date of November 14 had been set by Ross Smith, Director of MIT

Athletics, in anticipation of physical education classes and intramural hockey. On November 9 the sand bed sprinkling was begun while repairs and painting continued until November 10. By November 14 the rink had a fair base of ice, but on November 16 one of the compressors broke down. Warm weather then set in again with a forecast of more to follow, and the decision was made to let the ice go.

More problems were caused when it rained because a "false ice" formed which had to be scraped off. Earlier, when asked when the rink will be ready, Professor Smith replied, "I honestly can't say because it depends on the weather so much."

This weekend's below freezing temperatures have frozen the ice for the winter, but, until the indoor rink is built, MIT will encounter this problem again.

foul shots

Fall sports in review

By Tom Curtis

Can a winning collegiate athletic program be constructed without massive recruiting and athletic scholarships? According to MIT's fall sports teams the answer is a resounding yes as three of these teams finished first in Massachusetts and one team — the sailing team — finished first in New England.

The sailors topped a fourteen school field to win the Schell Trophy and the New England Fall Championship. The team also captured the Jack Wood Trophy and the Greater Boston Championship for the Oberg Trophy. The women's sailing team also performed well. Winning the Captain's Cup highlighted the women's season.

The perennially strong women's volleyball team captured its third straight Massachusetts State Championship. The team edged Springfield in a thrilling match to capture this year's Division I title and complement the two Division II crowns it won in 1975 and 1976. The volleyball team also competed in the small college Eastern Championship for the second year in a row. In regular season matches, the women finished with a 21-7 record. All of the team's losses came in tournament play.

Of the three MIT state champions, the water polo team was by far the most surprising. After a long string of losing seasons, the team exploded to finish third in New England behind powerhouses Brown and Yale. Under the leadership of third-year coach John Benedick, the team was able to defeat every other New England competitor except Brown. Goalie Pete Griffith '79 was nominated to first team All-New England for his outstanding performances.

The varsity soccer team also pulled a few surprises although the squad did not finish first in Massachusetts. Under the direction of another third year coach, Walter Alessi, the Tech booters finished with a 7-6 record, their first winning record in 14 years. The team's biggest surprise, however, was a 2-1 overtime victory over defending national champion Brandeis. This upset was instrumental in knocking Brandeis out of national championship competition this year. Goalie Jamie Bernard '79, a transfer student, was invaluable in guiding the team through this remarkable season. Bernard held the opposition to an average .69 goals a game.

Some other teams won their first games ever this season. The women's field hockey team topped Clark, 3-2, to win its first game, and the women's rugby club reached the same milestone by beating UConn, 22-4.

The cross country team was the season's only disappointment. After a 7-1 season last year, the team won only two of its eight meets this season. However, the team did improve rapidly in post-season play. The harriers climaxed their season with a respectable eighth in the IC4A meet in New York.

All of the teams except cross country and volleyball performed much better than last year. Since only the women's volleyball team will lose many of its starters, the fall teams should continue to improve next year. While Fall 1977 may be a season to note, Fall 1978 may well be a season to remember for years and years.

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Volleyball places 5th

By David Castanon

(Editor's note: David Castanon is the coach of the women's volleyball team.)

For the second straight year, the MIT women's volleyball team participated in the EAIAW small college championships held this year at SUNY-Binghamton on November 18 and 19. This year's tournament field was enlarged to 16 teams of much stronger caliber; MIT, the defending champion, was seeded fifth, and last year's runnerup Mansfield State was not selected for the tournament. Top seed in the tournament was East Stroudsburg State College, a team which had beaten the Tech squad in two previous matches.

The tournament consisted of four round-robin pools, followed by a single-elimination championship round. East Stroudsburg, Western Maryland and Clarion State College were in MIT's pool. The Engineers started the tournament on the wrong foot by losing to a taller, inspired Clarion State squad, 15-7, 15-6. The loss came as a shock to most tournament observers, but it was only one of a long series of upsets throughout the day, indicating the balance of the teams in the tournament. MIT found itself with its back to the wall, since another loss would eliminate the team from the tournament.

Fifteen minutes later, MIT played East Stroudsburg, the number one seed and eventual champions. This match was perhaps the finest match of the tournament; it was certainly one of the best matches MIT has ever played. MIT upset East Stroudsburg, 10-15, 16-14, 16-14, in a long match that saw MIT twice lose 14-11 leads only to pull away and win. The key factor in the match was the sudden awakening of MIT's blocking ability in the second game; although much smaller than their opponents, the MIT blockers used good positioning to stop Stroudsburg's powerful spiking. MIT's victory, a complete team effort, kept their hopes

alive in the tournament.

MIT's final pool match was against Western Maryland. After losing the first game, 14-16, MIT won the next two, 15-6, 15-6, to earn its way into the single elimination championship rounds. MIT's earlier loss sent them into the quarterfinals against the second seed, Ithaca College. Playing their fourth match of the day at 9:15pm, MIT lost a close match 15-11, 15-10 when Ithaca twice pulled away from 10-10 ties with good serving. Ithaca went on to lose to East Stroudsburg in the finals. The loss left MIT tied for fifth, eliminating them from consideration for the national championships.

MIT thus concluded a very successful 1977 season. The volleyball team was undefeated in regular season matches; its only losses in a 21-7 season came during tournaments in Rhode Island, Connecticut and at the Eastern Championships. Five of MIT's losses were at the hands of teams in the national championships, since Maryland and URI finished one-two in the large college Eastern championships, and East Stroudsburg and Ithaca did likewise in the small college championships. Moreover, MIT was the only school to beat Stroudsburg at the Eastern championships.

W fencing splits two

By Jeannette M. Wing

(Editor's note: Jeannette M. Wing is a member of the women's fencing team.)

The MIT women's varsity fencing team opened its season by hosting a three-way meet with University of Connecticut and Wheaton College on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Led by captain Michelle Prettyman '79, MIT decisively routed UConn, 13-3. Prettyman, playing a cautious defensive game, won all four of her bouts, allowing only five total touches to score against her.

Returning varsity members of the team include Jeannette Wing '78, who won all three of her bouts against the weaker UConn fencers, and Meredith Boice '78, who contributed three easy wins and dropped only her last bout by a 5-4 score.

Fencing varsity for the first time, Julia Shimaoka '80 added three victories to the total. With the victor of the meet decided, Marian Stein '80 substituted in for Wing and lost her bout by only one touch.

MIT narrowly lost to Wheaton College, 9-7. Again, Prettyman defeated all four of her opponents, one of them after making a remarkable comeback when she was down 0-4 and scored five straight touches to win. The MIT junior varsity fenced Wheaton College's JV team and lost 11-5.

The next meet is Wednesday, Nov. 30 against MIT's traditional rival Radcliffe.

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